AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 15, and 17, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a disease selected from diabetes mellitus and atherosclerosis comprising administrating to a subject an effective amount of crude *Dunaliella* powder comprising an approximately 1:1 ratio of all-trans and 9-cis β-carotene.

2. (Original) A method for reducing triglycerides and/or increasing HDL cholesterol levels in the plasma of a subject comprising administrating to the subject an effective amount of crude *Dunaliella* powder.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered together with one or more activators of nuclear receptors.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the activators of nuclear receptors are peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α or γ (PPARα or PPARγ) agonists.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4 wherein the

PPARα or PPARγ agonists are selected from fibrates and thiazolidinediones.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the fibrates are selected from clofibrate, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, beclofibrate and gemfibrozil.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 5 wherein the thiazolidinediones are selected from ~~avandia~~, troglitazone, BRL 49653, pioglitazone, ciglitazone, WAY 120,744, englitazone, AD 5075, darglitazone and rosiglitazone.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered orally.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said *Dunaliella* ~~algae~~ is *Dunaliella bardawil*.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said powder is encapsulated.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered together with one or more

activators of nuclear receptors.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein the activators of nuclear receptors are peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α or γ (PPARα or PPARγ).

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 12 wherein the PPARα or PPARγ agonists are selected from fibrates and thiazolidinediones.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the fibrates are selected from clofibrate, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, beclofibrate and gemfibrozil.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 13 wherein the thiazolidinediones are selected from ~~avandia~~, troglitazone, BRL 49653, pioglitazone, ciglitazone, WAY 120,744, englitazone, AD 5075, darglitazone and rosiglitazone.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 2 wherein said crude *Dunaliella* powder is administered orally.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 2

wherein said *Dunaliella* ~~algae~~ is *Dunaliella bardawil*.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 2, wherein said powder is encapsulated.